Corp. History & Mission Statement

98

A Brief Outline
of the History

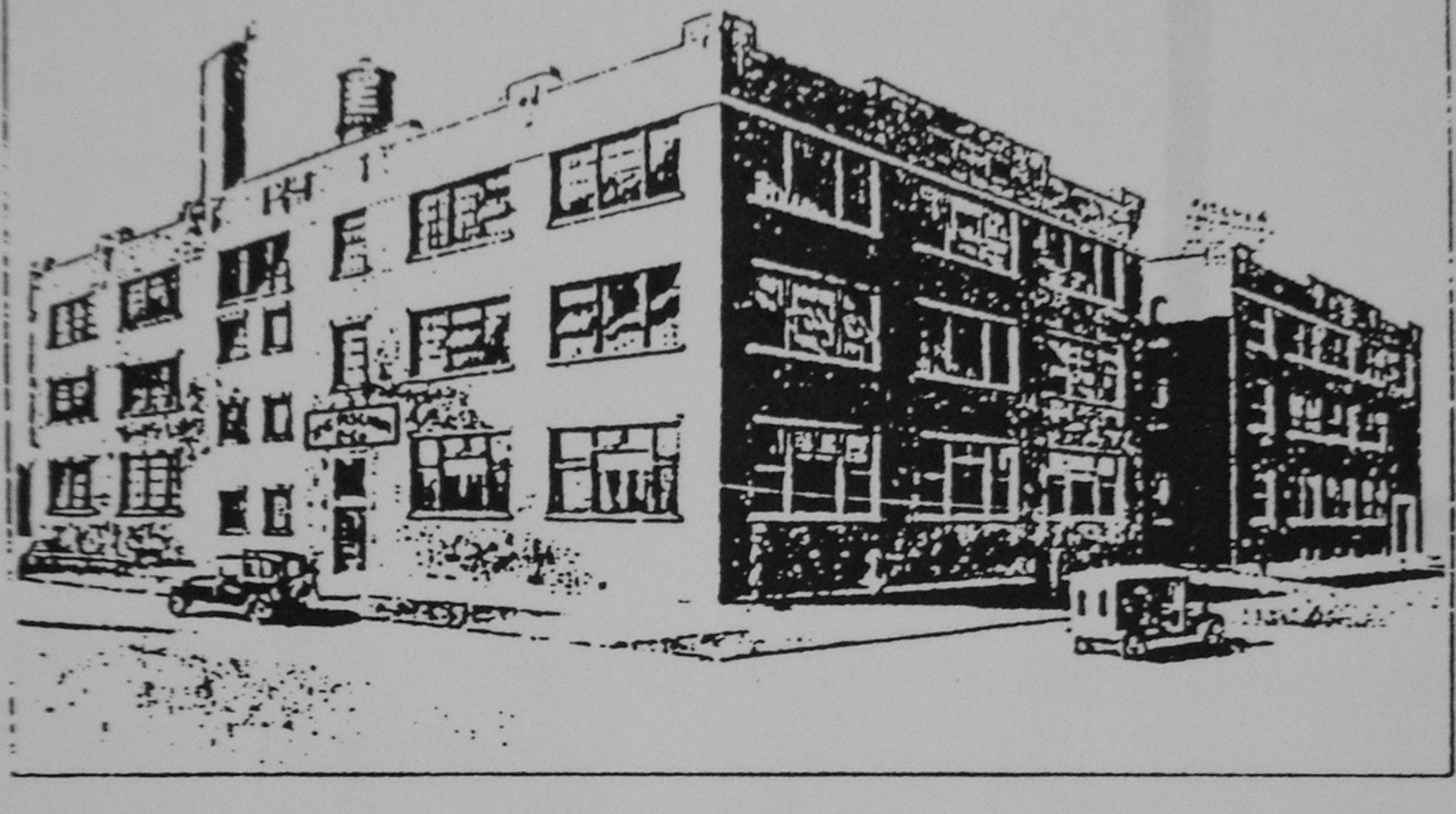
of

H. G. FISCHER & COMPANY

INCORPORATED

2333-43 Wabansia Avenue

CHICAGO

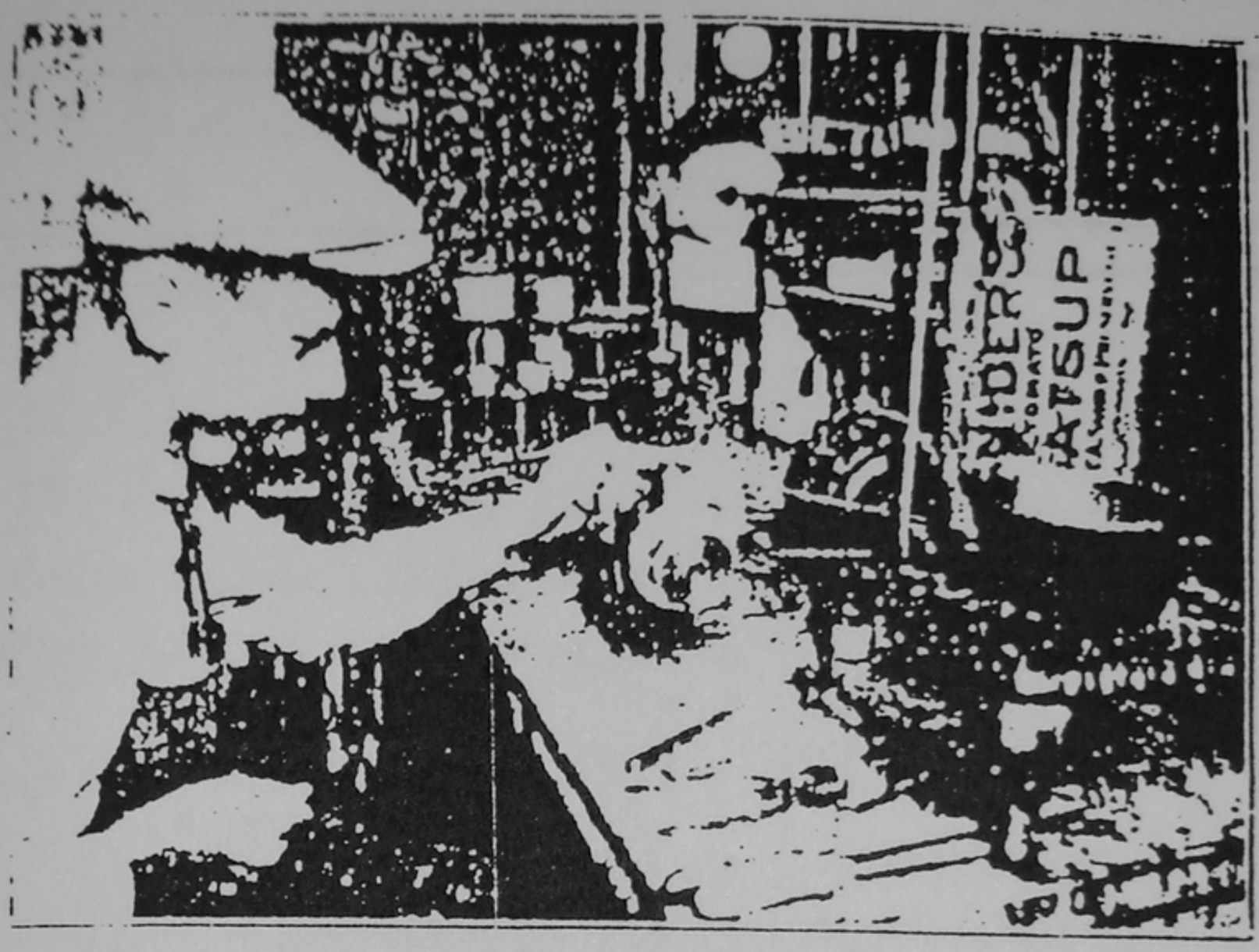


The Home of Fischer

QUALITY, COURTESY
AND SERVICE

2333-43 Wabansia Avenue

CHICAGO



The First Fischer "Factory"

THE HISTORY of H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., is an industrial epic of accomplishment. From a one-room basement shop to the top of the ladder in an even dozen years. Twelve years of steady, irresistible growth — a victorious march of success — from an *idea* to an *industry*.

Twelve years ago H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., began the manufacture of High Frequency machines, a type of electrical apparatus which was beginning to find favor among physicians for the treatment of certain forms of disease.

The one-room basement shop, one man and one coil-winding machine comprised the factory and the

manufacturing organization. Truly, not a very elaborate layout—but, behind this modest establishment was an idea—a vision of the future—that Electro-Physiotherapy, practiced along scientific lines, was to be inevitably the one big development in the medical field.

The first Fischer machines were decided improvements over existing types, and found a ready market, and the rapidly increasing demand soon forced a move to larger quarters.

This was the awakening of the seedling—the giant had begun to grow.

The next Fischer Factory was a rented space—a rather secluded building of triangular shape, with the main entrance on an alley.

The number of employes gradually increased, more efficient machines constructed, much experimental work engaged in, and the Fischer line so broadened that in a remarkably short time additional floor space was imperative.

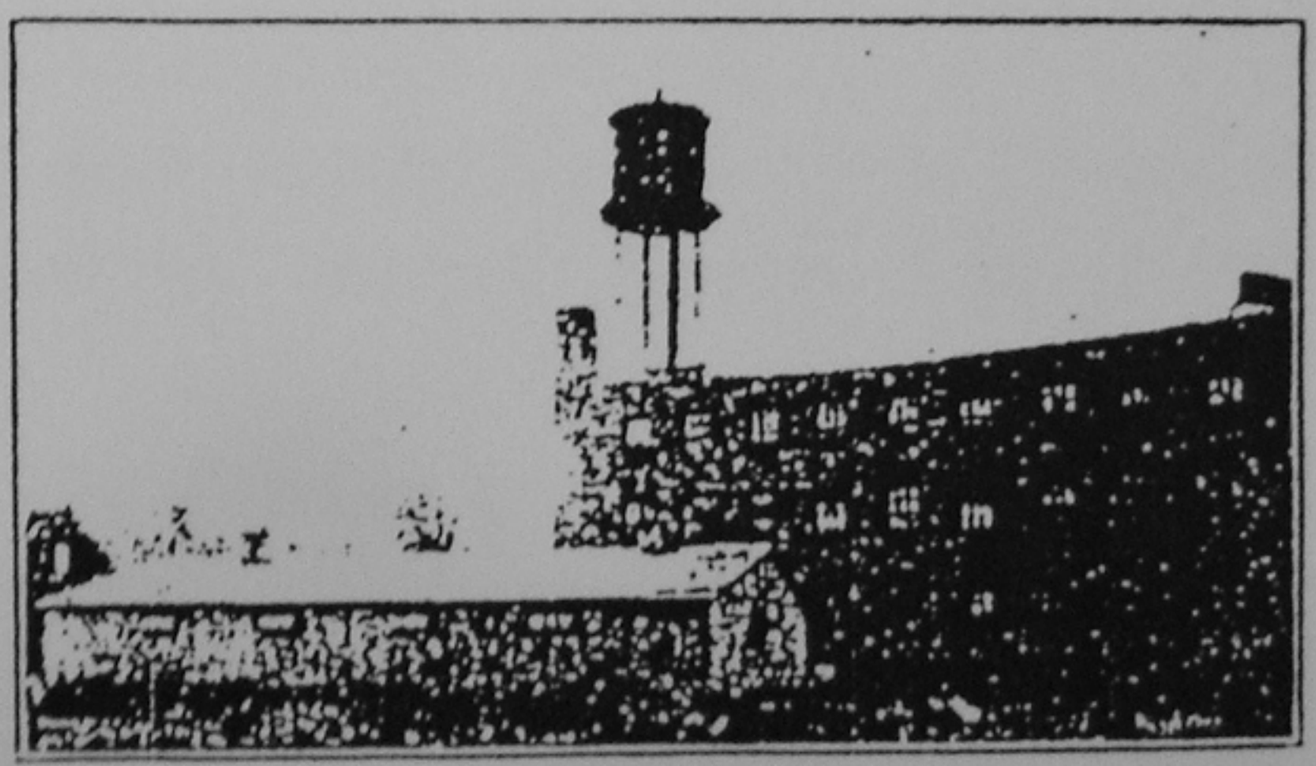
A new mill-constructed building had just been completed in the neighborhood, and the entire third floor was leased.

In less than a year's time the second floor had been added to the third; a year later two neighborhood stores were rented for manufacturing purposes; also a considerable space for storage.

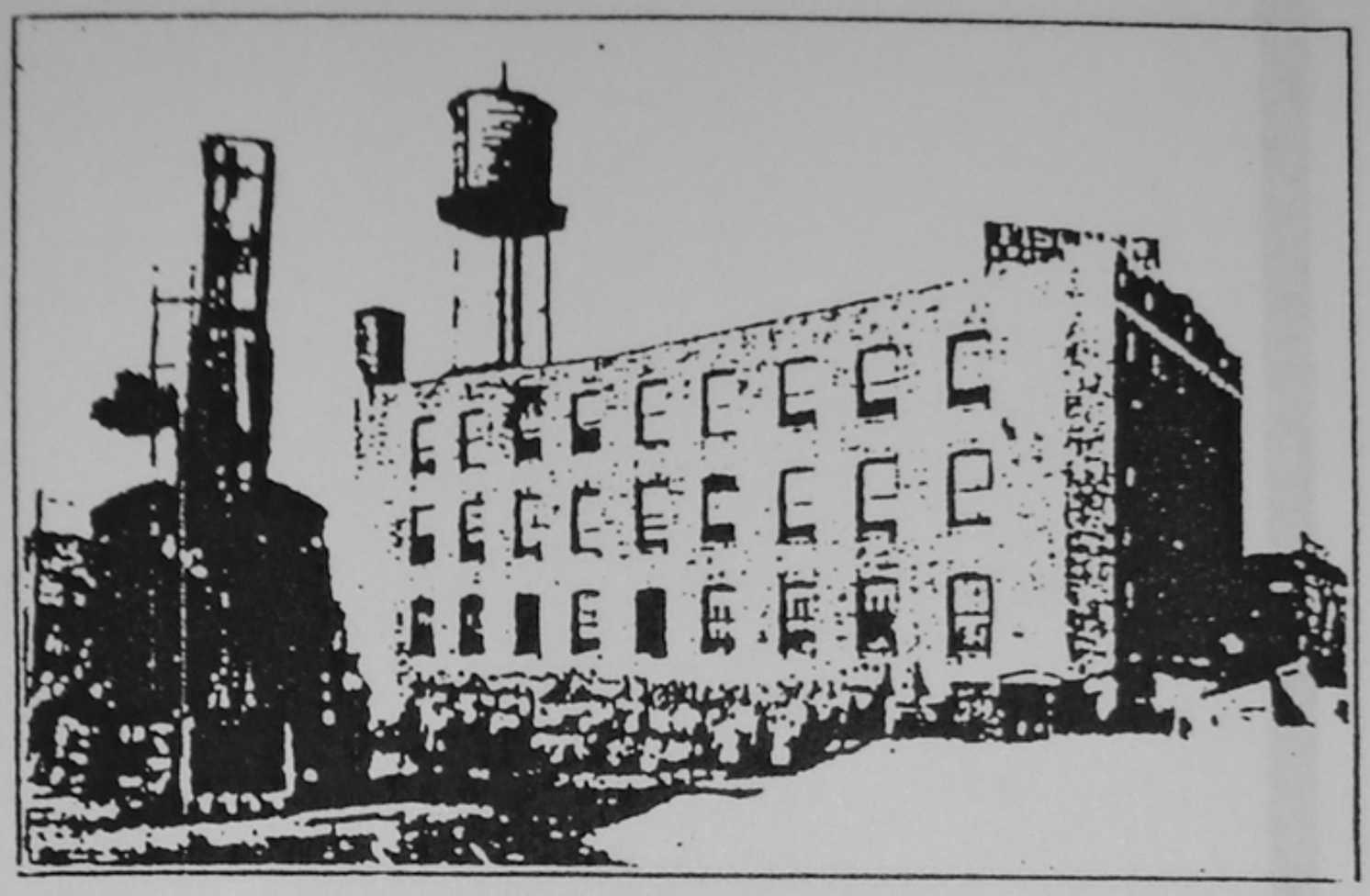
Laying Foundation for Warehouse

The vacant land east was purchased and a steel warehouse erected—and as rapidly as each new space was provided it was filled to overflowing.

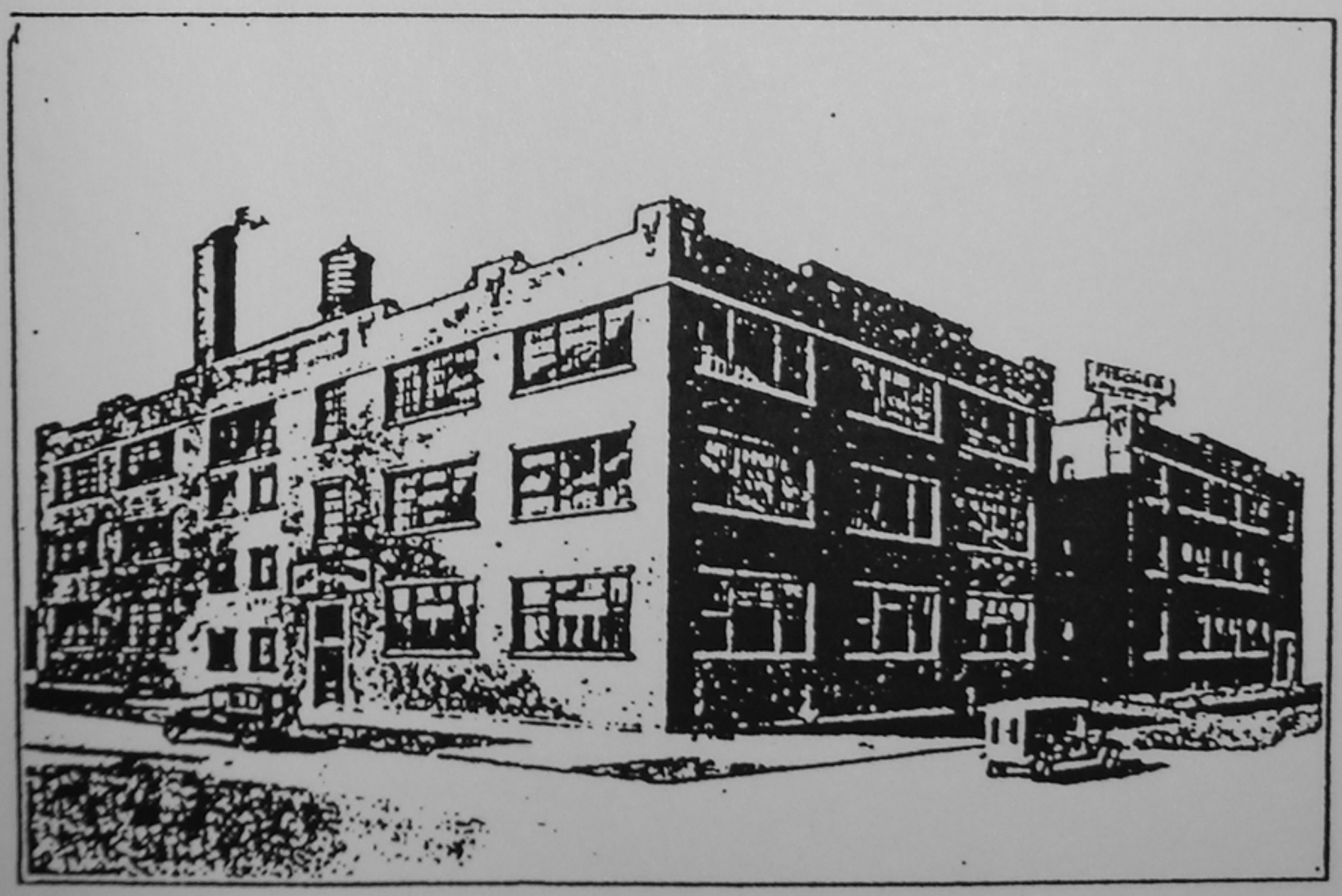
Expansion followed expansion—additional property was purchased, and a great, modern three-story mill-constructed brick factory, with the most approved sprinkler system for fire protection, was erected.



Warehouse Completed



Breaking Ground for the New Factory



We Now Occupy These Premises, and the Capacity Is Utilized to the Limit

The greatest stimulant toward Physiotherapeutic progress and general acceptance by the medical profession was the recent European war. Physicians and surgeons saw apparently hopeless cases resurrected, and, as has been stated, the Physiotherapy service became in truth "the human salvage service."

H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., has had a big share in this development. Fischer equipment and Fischer service are well known to thousands of physicians because practically every Reconstruction Hospital and branch of the Veterans' Bureaus was equipped with Fischer apparatus.

New devices and ideas are constantly being developed and tested—there is no let-up in the effort to improve and refine Fischer apparatus, and to increase its usefulness and efficiency. Physicians everywhere are showing their appreciation of and confidence in H. G. Fischer & Company's efforts in producing better equipment and rendering the best possible service, with constant repeat orders—the *finest* tribute.

A trip through the Fischer plant brings out many interesting and educational facts. The pictures in this booklet show but a few of the hundreds of operations involved in the manufacture of Physicians' Electrical Equipment.

Take a walk through this splendid, completely equipped plant —we want you to meet the Officers and Directors of H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., to see the various departments in action, and shake hands with the "boys" who are responsible for the conduct of the institution.

H. G. Fischer
President and Treasurer

H. T. Fischer
Secretary
Director of Sales

P. P. Musket
Vice President
Electrical Engineer

Officers and Directors

Chas. Musket
Director
Factory Superintendent

A. W. Mathis
Director
Manager, Retail Sales

H. H. Osborn
Master Mechanic
Superintendent of Works

First, let us visit the General Office, shake hands with Mr. P. H. Brown, upon whose shoulders rests the responsibility of office routine, with the many and varied attendant duties.

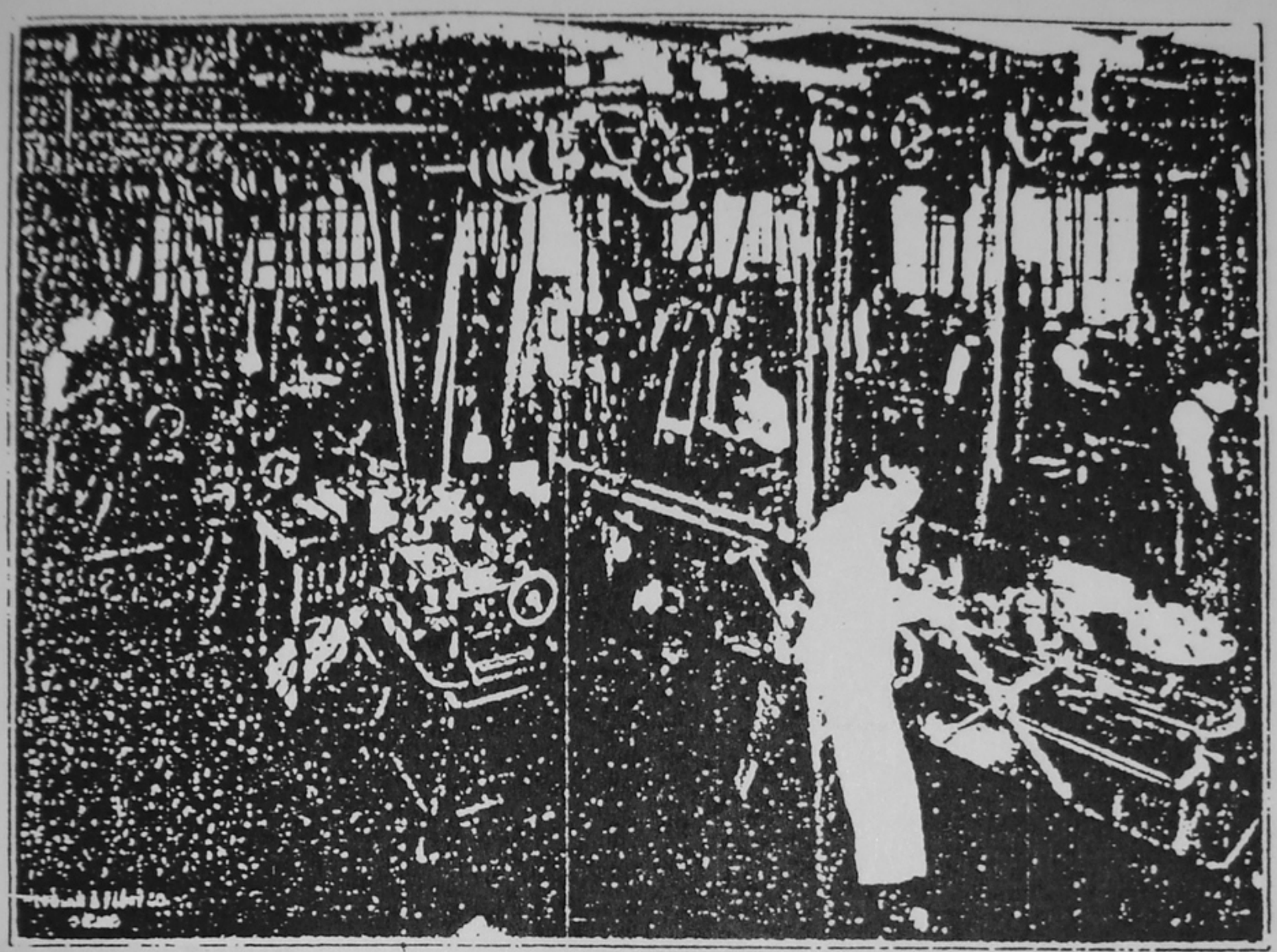
Here, in an orderly group, are the executive, sales, advertising, order, billing, bookkeeping, service, record, filing, purchasing, costs, draughting and mailing departments.

Accuracy and Service are the watchwords—your rush order received in the morning is entered, filled, shipped and billed often before noon, and any service called for is given attention immediately.

This is our Mailing Department, where upward of 18,000 "Fischer's Magazines" are sent out every month. An educational paper, sent to a select list of physicians, mostly operators of Fischer equipment, offering many valuable suggestions pertaining to the use and care of Electrical Apparatus.

Through this medium H. G. Fischer & Co., Inc., are building up a very close contact with users of their equipment, and are creating a demand as well as bringing about a much broader understanding of the scientific principles which underlie electrotherapy.

Note the steel and concrete vault—a great value is placed on records. Every evening all desks are cleared—the vault receives all valuable papers.

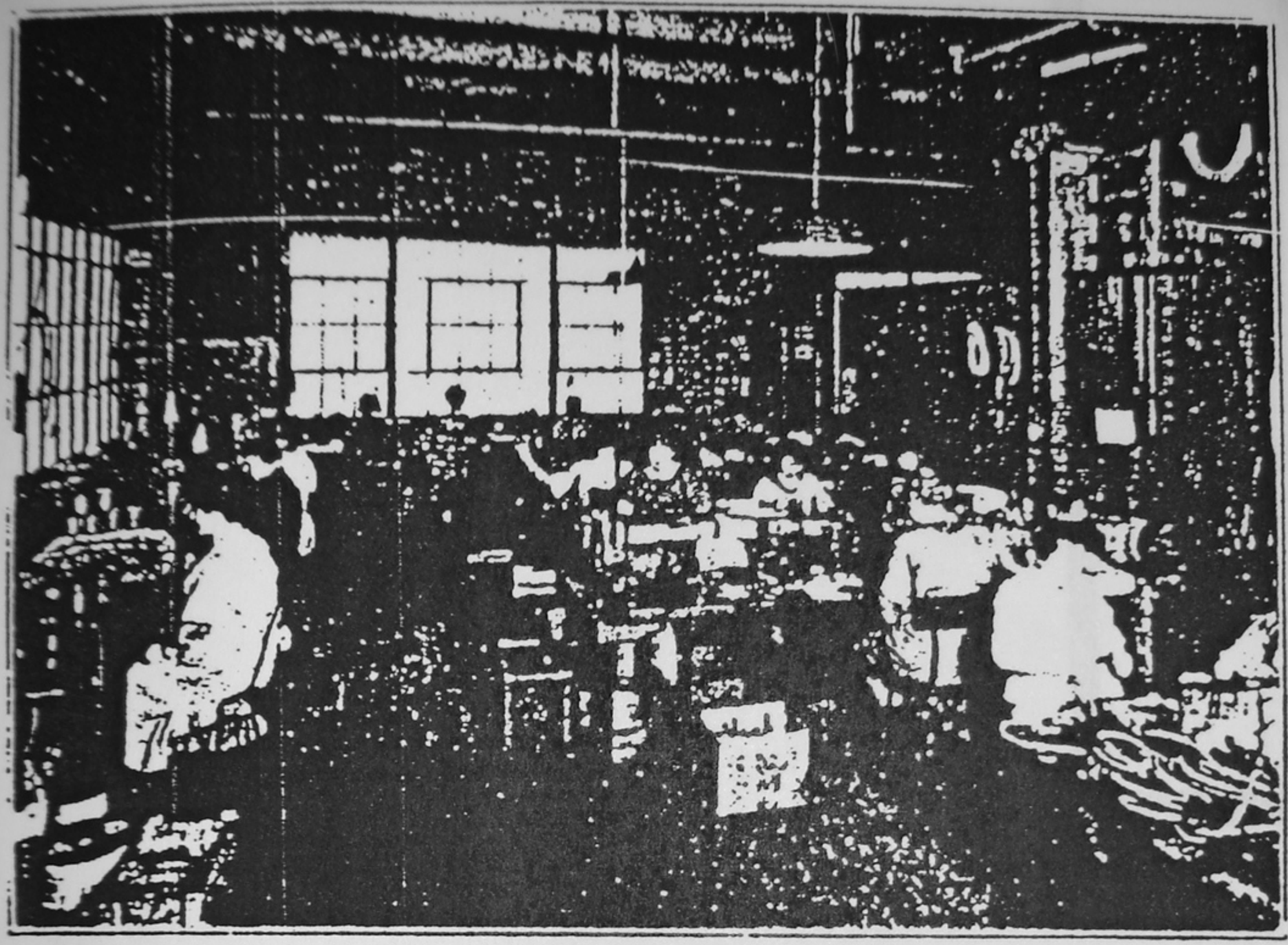


Let us now pass through the plant.

Mr. Chas. Musket, *Factory Superintendent*, bids you welcome to the machine shop. Here the pulsing and humming of busy machines brings a feeling of real activity to the visitor.

Modern machinery, skillfully manned, cutting, punching, grinding, bending and shaping the raw material preparatory to the assembling operations, greets the eye. Automatic equipment is continually chewing up steel, brass, copper, silver, rubber, bakelite, fibre, etc., and turning out parts to the tune of over 50,000 a day.

Bob, our clever toolmakers' foreman, guarantees that his accurately made tools, jigs and dies will exactly duplicate parts—that's why replacements on Fischer Apparatus are easy to take care of.

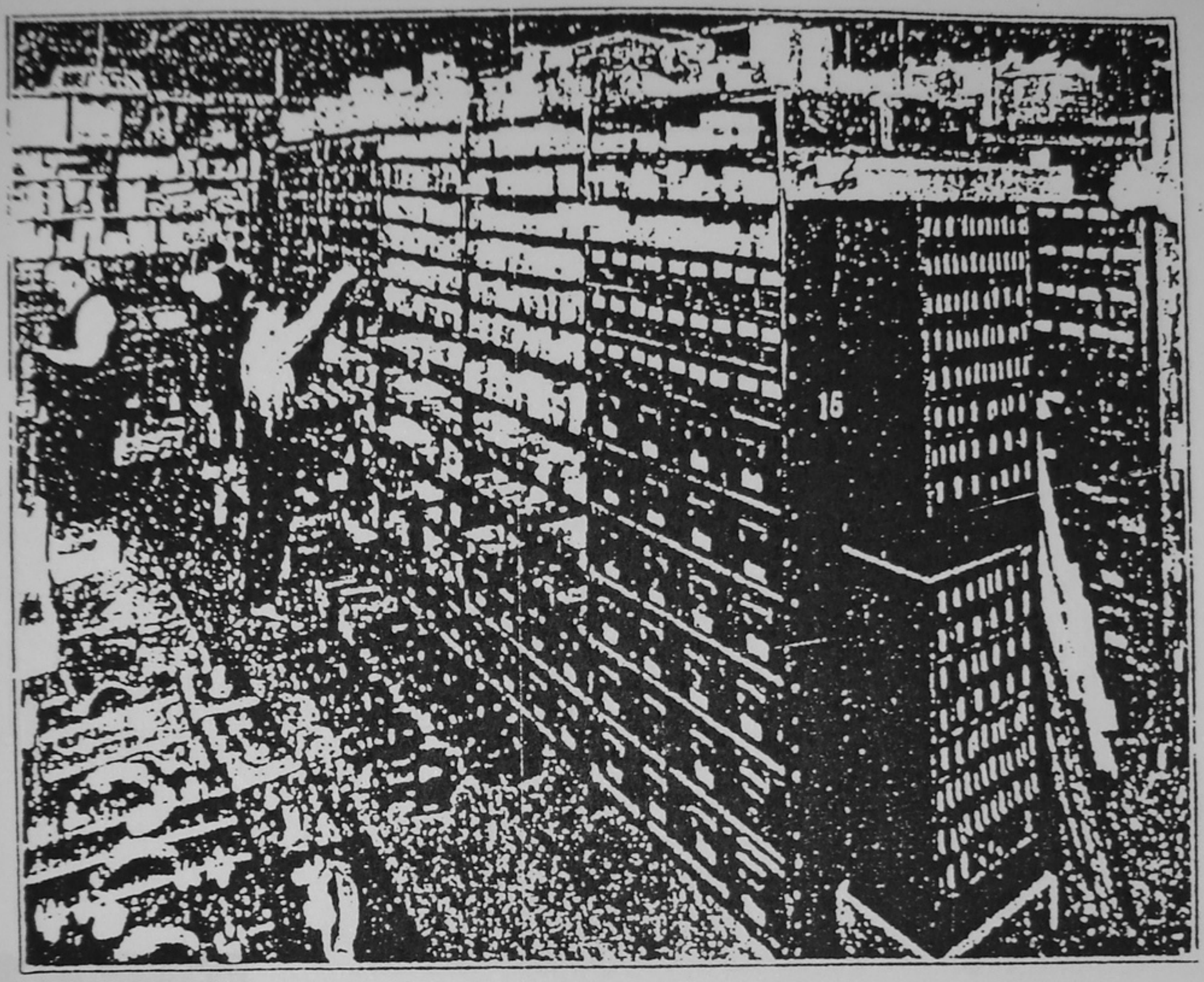


Mr. John Ingstad is foreman of the Coil Winding and Cable Department.

Did you ever stop to figure that it takes thousands of turns of wire, sometimes no heavier than a hair, totalling many thousands of feet, yes, several miles, to make a high tension transformer such as is used in X-ray and Diathermy machines?

Every turn is counted—every turn and layer is carefully insulated from the others, that the finished product may be guaranteed against breakdown.

If you could look through the wall to the right you would see these same coils being carefully bound and mounted, ready for their final immersion into oil tanks.



What do we do now with all these intricate and numerous parts? Let's go in the Part Stock Room and ask Mr. Frank Emmerling, who has charge.

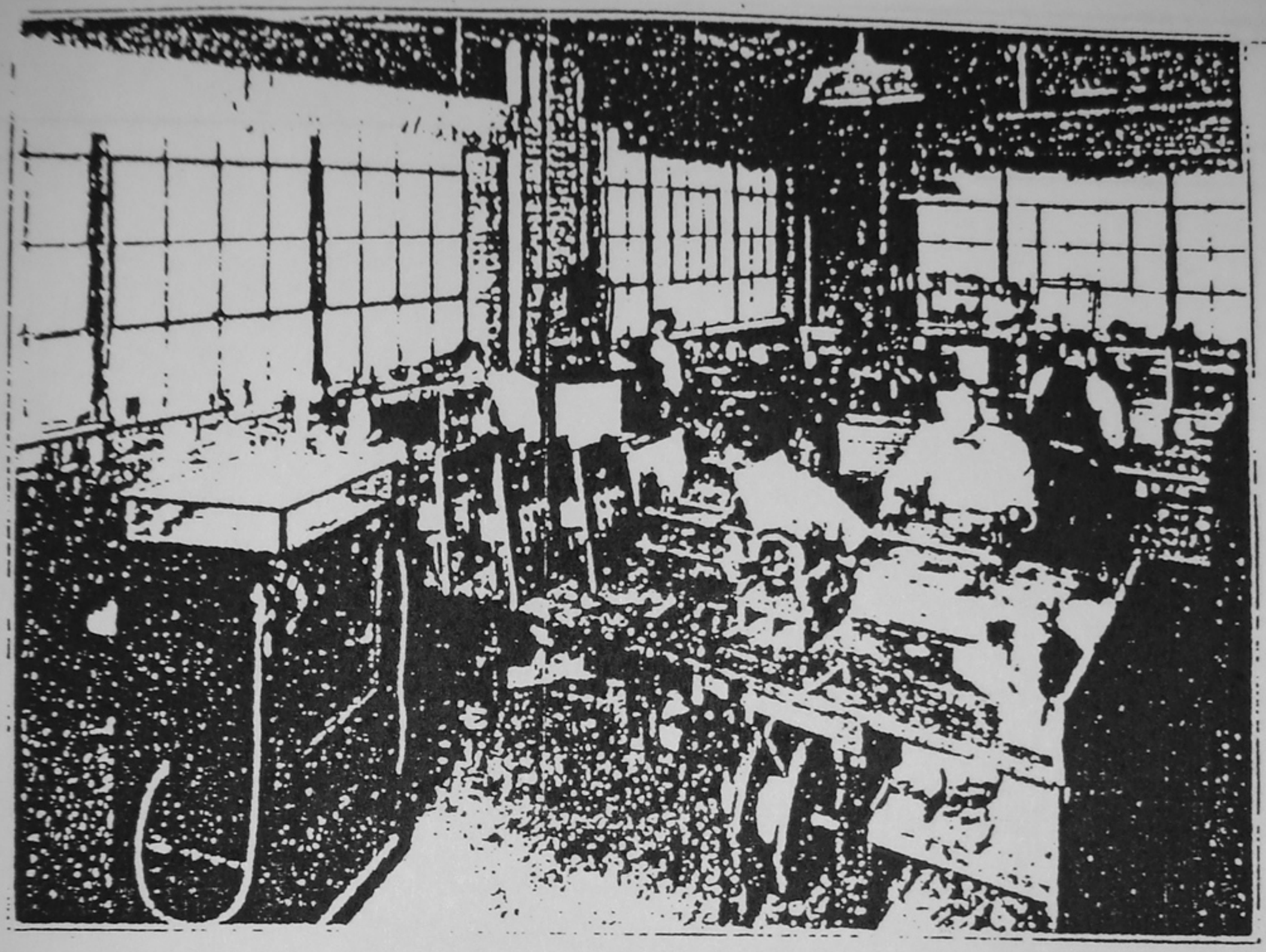
Too bad we can't show you the other tiers of steel stock racks, but the camera man said it was too difficult. Inventory figures show just how many hundreds of thousands of parts are always carried on hand in this section.

Every part is ordered out on requisition, and every part, having been carefully gauged and made with properly designed tools, will fit just exactly where it is intended without alteration.

Did you know that we did all our own Glass Blowing? Meet Mr. Ed. Wandner, who is a past master in the art of making brittle, plain glass tubing into seemingly impossible shapes.

Not Ed. alone—all of our glass-blowers are masters of their trade. We make our own X-ray tubes, high frequency electrodes, insulating tubes, and effect all manner of glass repairs.

You can draw your own conclusions as to the value of being able to produce vacuum tubes of all types, pumped just exactly correct for the apparatus with which such tubes are to be used.



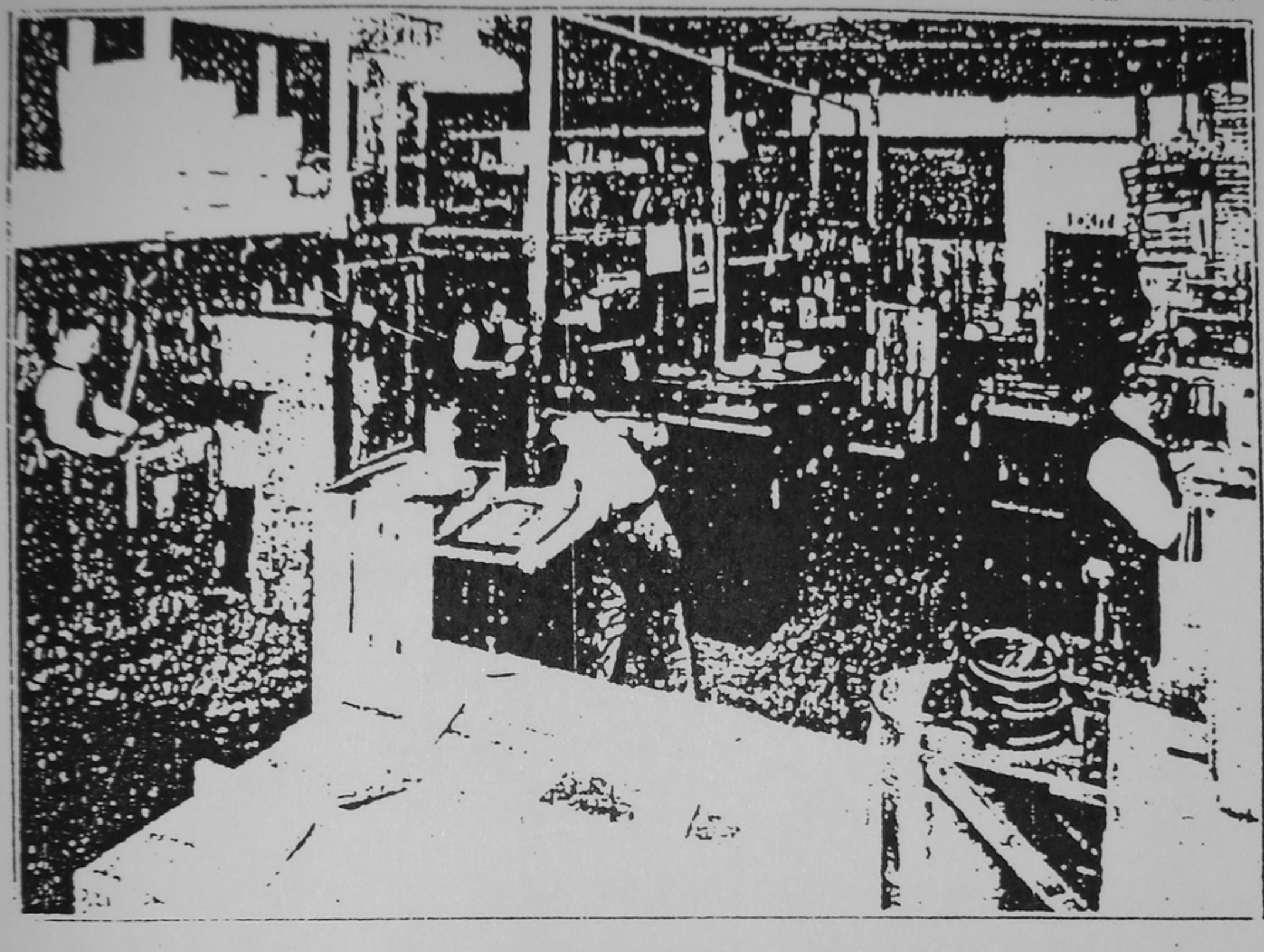
So far you have seen a lot of parts being made up—let's go into the Assembling Department; we want you to shake hands with Mr. Arthur Nowicki. Art has been with us for so long that he can put electrical apparatus together with his eyes closed, and get it right.

In this picture is shown only a small corner of the assembling floor. A personal visit, with plenty of time allowed for each step, is necessary before one can grasp the importance of this division.

Here the parts are taken from stock and built into cabinets or portable carrying cases under careful, constant supervision.

Every item manufactured by H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., or which passes through our hands must go through the Inspection Department. Mr. Joe Herzog sure is one excellent sleuth when it comes to locating defects—he really should be a member of the Pinkerton staff.

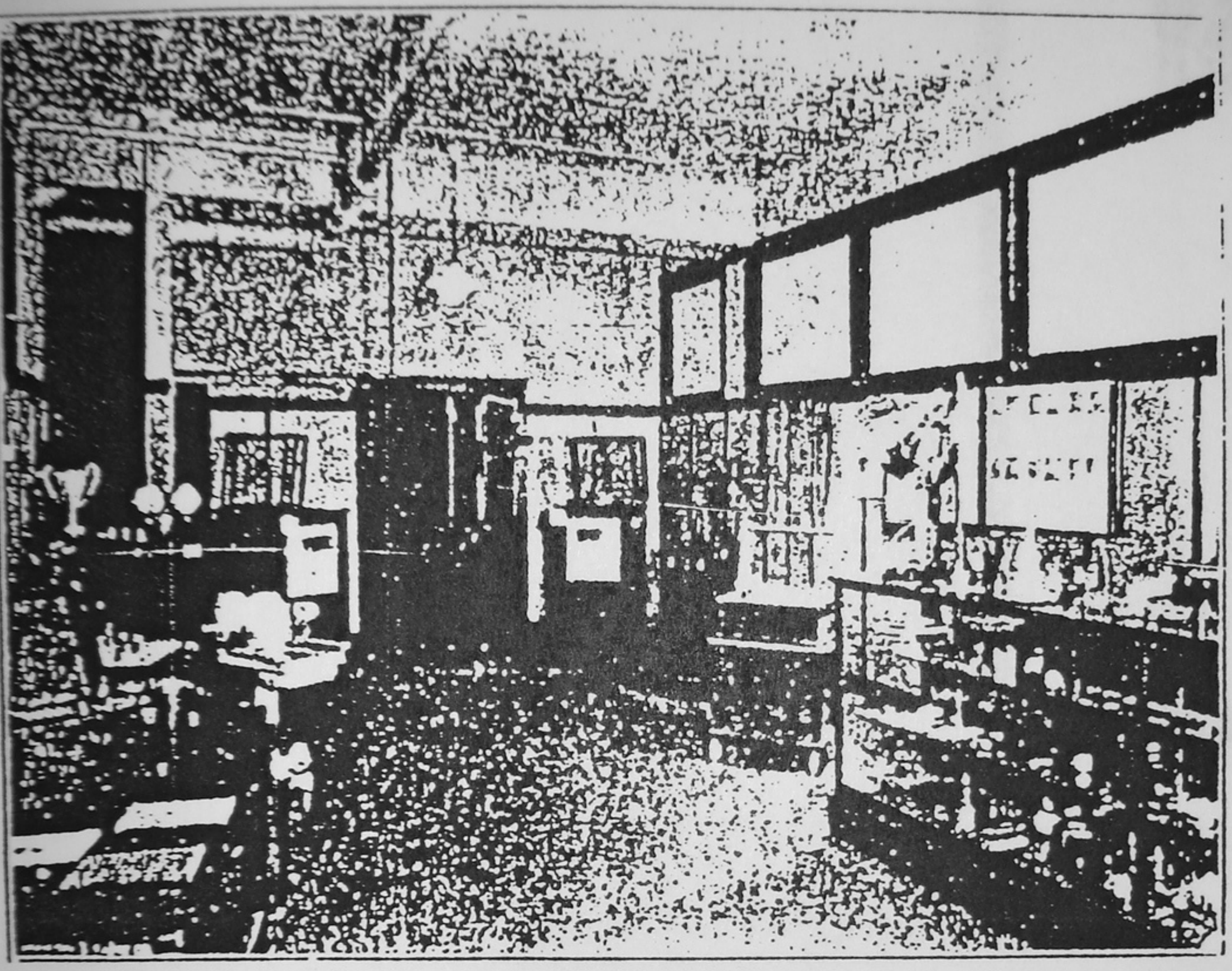
Never mind, Joe, we mean that as a compliment. We must find errors, if errors there are, right here; and we do correct many items. On the other hand, there are mighty few complaints from our customers simply because we do pay so much attention to careful inspection and testing.



A very important cog in the wheel is our Shipping Department. Meet Mr. Ed. Oberdieck, who presides therein—fat, healthy and smiling.

Well, one needs all three in a crowded shipping room. Only the best of packing materials are used tissue paper, paper cartons and boxes, wooden crates and wooden boxes to insure our goods arriving in perfect condition at destination, whether five miles away or five thousand miles.

The "Fischer" Trucks

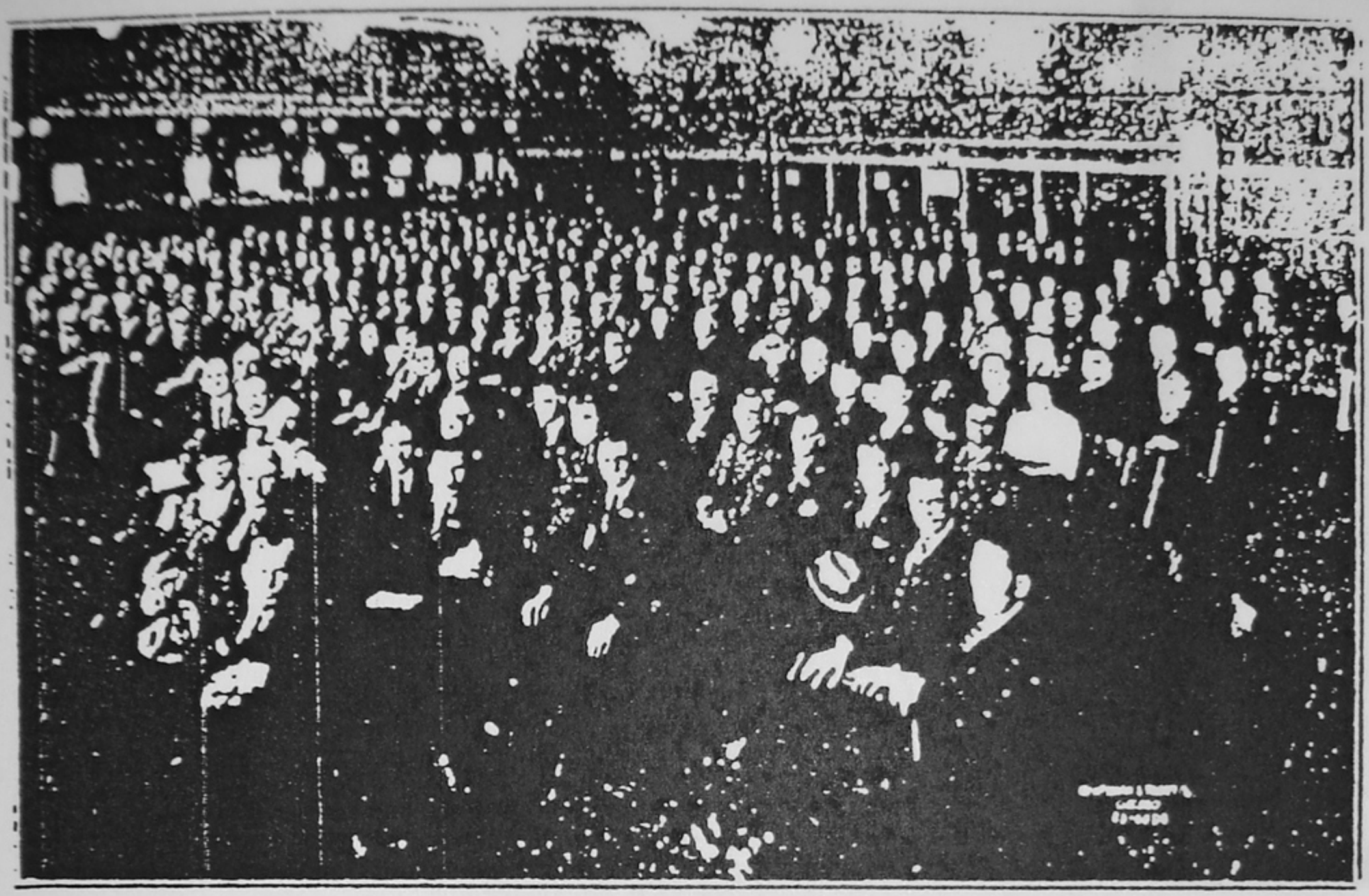


We surely must take you through our demonstrating room, where we have completed outfits on exhibition. Here you will see all the very latest machines for electro-physiotherapy work, as well as a most complete line of accessories, and we are always ever-ready to make demonstrations.

Lectures and clinics are calendared for the second Monday of every month in this room. Over 18,000 invitations are extended each month, and physicians especially talented in particular phases of electrotherapeutic work appear on the program. This service alone is just one of the many sides of the educational work carried on continually by H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc.

Do you recognize any of these folks? They are the officers and most of the sales force of H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc. Photo was made at a recent get-together festival here at Chicago.

Perhaps you will recognize yourself in this photograph, taken at a Fischer Convention in 1921. The Educational Department is ever on the watch for opportunities to help Physicians master Physiotherapy.



Here is a splendidly representative gathering of physicians from 31 of these United States and 3 foreign countries, who attended a recent physicians' meeting at the invitation of H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., at Chicago.

This illustration shows only about one-half of the almost 700 attendants, who were so pleased with our efforts in promoting the meeting that they presented us with this beautiful Loving Cup, inscribed:

To

H. G. FISCHER & COMPANY, INC.,
in appreciation of their efforts to promote medical efficiency by inaugurating the Physiotherapeutic Meeting in Chicago, October 15 to 19, 1923
from
The Physicians in Attendance

A Fischer Company Picnic

The Employes (or, as they are most often referred to, the "business associates") of H. G. Fischer & Company, Inc., are kept in close touch with conditions through the activities of their Welfare League —consisting of and controlled by themselves entirely.

The Annual Picnic out in the woods, and the periodic receptions and dances are eagerly looked forward to by all. These meetings outside business hours, as well as the many gatherings of the heads of the departments each week, serve to enlighten, strengthen and intensify Fischer Service both inside and outside the factory.

Our Story Was Brief—

Let us add, that *your welfare is our welfare.*

Co-operation is a word that possibly has been overworked to a great extent, but to us it means just this—if we can give you the benefit of our vast manufacturing and experimental experience, extending over a period of twelve years, we are always glad to do so.

Being in constant contact with the physicians who are employing electro-physiotherapy daily, we are able to suggest plans and ideas that will be advantageous to you from many angles.

When in doubt, consult
"The House of Service."

The Fischer Employe's Creed

I believe in the work I am turning out, in the firm I am working for, and in my ability to get results.

I believe that honest work can be handed out by honest methods.

I believe in turning out every bit of my work of such quality that I would be proud of it if I were paying for it myself.

I believe in working, not weeping; in boosting, not knocking; and in the pleasure of my job.

I believe in clean working conditions, and consider it a duty to myself to assist in keeping my department orderly and sanitary.

I believe that a man gets what he goes after, and that one deed done today is worth two deeds tomorrow, and that no man is down and out until he has lost faith in himself.

I believe in today and the work I am doing, in tomorrow and the work I hope to do, and in the reward which the future holds.

I believe that in attempting to pass the buck I would only display ignorance and prove my incapacity.

I believe in preparing myself for advancement so that the firm I work for need not look to outsiders to fill the more important positions.

I believe in courtesy, in kindness, in generosity, in good cheer, in friendship, in open minded criticism and in honest competition.

I believe there is something doing for every man ready to do it.

I believe I'll get ready

RIGHT NOW